



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Presentation Regarding the Upcoming Lodi Lake Park Discovery Center Open House

MEETING DATE: August 7, 2002

PREPARED BY: Parks and Recreation Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: For all members of the City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission, City staff and the citizens of Lodi to attend the upcoming Lodi Lake Park Discovery Center Open House on August 14, 2002, at 5:30 p.m..

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: A several mile stretch of the Lower Mokelumne River forms the northern boundary of the City of Lodi and Lodi Lake Park. The Lodi Lake Nature Area, a 58-acre riparian preserve bound on the north and east by the Mokelumne River, forms the northeast portion of Lodi Lake Park. The Nature Area is the focal point of a K-6 interpretive education program conducted by Lodi Lake Docent Council volunteers since 1987. In 1994 all three local Rotary Clubs joined forces to remodel the existing concession stand building for the purpose of housing interpretive displays and conducting educational programs.

In October 2000, Supplemental Environmental Project fine monies were awarded to the Lodi Lake Nature Area Docent Council to again refurbish a part of the Lodi Lake Discovery Center to provide space for the office, training, and educational activities of the docents.

Following the refurbishing project, a small group of volunteers led by Mr. and Mrs. Jay Bell transformed the Discovery Center into "Go Where The River Ends". Through use of Mr. and Mrs. Bell's personal collection of Ocean artifacts, the community was allowed to see how our Mokelumne River Watershed is connected to the ocean and the water cycle.

Even though City staff and the Docent Council know that the ocean interpretive display was very good, new ideas and plans started to be made for the 2002 season.

Led by ideas solicited from Marilee Flannery, Interim Park Interpretive Supervisor, Effie Yeaw Nature Center, a small group of dedicated citizens have once again transformed the Lodi Lake Discovery Center. On July 4th of this year the new displays were open for public viewing. This season's focus is how our Mokelumne River relates to the immediate community.

APPROVED: _____
H. Dixon Flynn -- City Manager

07/31/02



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On August 14, 2002, you will have a first hand opportunity to meet the hard working group that has put together this year's interpretive display and be given a personal tour of just what is in our back yard.

Roger Baltz
Parks and Recreation Director

Prepared by Steve Dutra, Parks Superintendent

RB/SD/tl

cc: City Manager
City Attorney
Director of Parks and Recreation
Director of Public Works

APPROVED: _____

David Keeter -- City Manager

07/31/02